



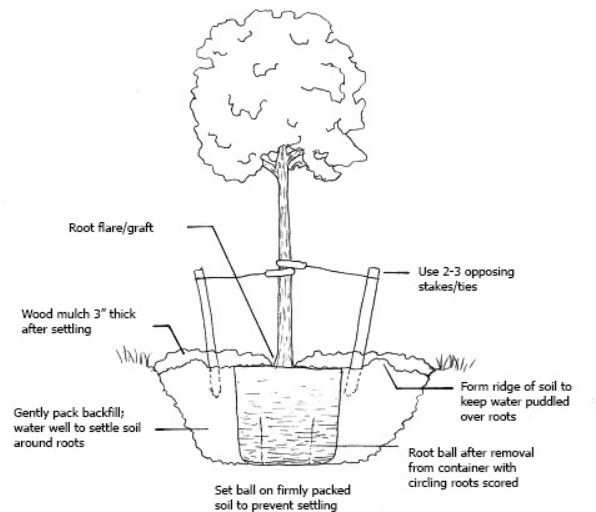
Planting

Successful planting starts with proper preparation.

- Dig the hole 3-5 times the diameter of the root ball.
- Find the root flare, the area where the trunk flares out and connects with the root system. It should be planted 1" above ground level. If your tree has a graft near the base, do not bury it!
- Roughen the sides of the hole with a shovel. Remove rocks and debris from the hole.
- Plants must be able to grow in their surrounding soil, but you can amend sandy soils with organic material or light topsoil to help with moisture retention. If you have very heavy, slow draining soil you may want to consider another planting location.

Ready to plant?

- Once the planting hole is prepared, lay the containerized tree or shrub on its side and gently slide the plant out of the container. It may be necessary to push on the sides of the container to loosen the root ball or cut the container.
- If roots are growing in a spiral around the soil ball, the plant is root-bound. Separate these roots or they will eventually girdle the plant. Make vertical cuts with a knife or pruning shears on the sides of the ball just deep enough to cut the net of roots. Make a criss-cross cut across the bottom of the ball.
- Place the intact root ball in the hole.
- Backfill the soil into the hole a few inches at a time, firming the soil after each addition. While backfilling, be sure the tree remains vertical.



After Planting

Moisture, mulch, and more

- The soil around the plant should be kept very moist for the first 2-3 weeks after planting.
- Gradually taper off watering until about 5 weeks, when no additional watering should be needed unless we are in a dry spell.
- **An exception to the watering rule is evergreens, as they are susceptible to winter burn. Those planted within the past three years, need about two inches of water per week into mid or even late November.**
- Build a 'soil saucer' (narrow berm) at least 3" high around the hole edge for a water reservoir. Fill it with water, and let it drain.
- Mulching helps maintain a uniform supply of moisture while keeping weed growth down. Avoid creating a "mulch volcano" around trees where mulch is mounded up high around the root flare.
- Mulch no more than 3" deep inside the saucer area. Mulch should not touch the trunk.
- Supplemental fertilizer is not necessary in the first year of establishment but may be applied later for ongoing maintenance.

Two additional steps for success with newly planted trees:

- Staking is often not necessary but if you feel the tree is unstable, you may want to provide some additional support with two opposing stakes placed firmly outside of the root mass and connected to the tree with canvas straps.
- **Protect your tree from animal damage!** Voles and rabbits love to gnaw the bark of young trees during late fall and winter. Wrap the trunk with a plastic tree protector or hardware cloth. Remember to remove these protectors as the tree ages to prevent girdling. If deer are prevalent in your area, surround the tree with a tall wire fence.